

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LAHONTAN REGION

TIME SCHEDULE ORDER NO. 6-98-25

**REQUIRING BIO GRO DIVISION (BIO GRO)
TO SUBMIT A PLAN AND TIME SCHEDULE
ADDRESSING SPECIFIC ACTIONS NECESSARY
TO CORRECT OR PREVENT
THREATENED VIOLATION OF REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH
IN BOARD ORDER NO. 6-90-34 AT THE SOARING VISTA RANCH FACILITY**

Los Angeles County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Regional Board), finds:

1. Facility: The Soaring Vista Ranch (site) is an agricultural site located in Section 5, T8N, R14W, APN 3258-001-030, 3258, 001-031 within the Lancaster Hydrologic Area of the Antelope Valley Hydrologic Unit. For the purposes of this Time Schedule Order (Order), the Soaring Vista Ranch described above is referred to as the "Facility".
2. Waste Discharge: Bio Gro submitted a complete Report of Waste Discharge for land application of municipal wastewater sludge for the Facility. On May 10, 1990, the Regional Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for Bio Gro in Board Order No. 6-90-34 (Waste Discharge Identification No. 6B198910003). Waste Discharges have included land application of municipal wastewater sludge from the City of Los Angeles wastewater treatment plants onto the Facility agricultural sites.
3. Waste Discharge Requirements: Sections I.C.4. and I.C.6. of the WDRs state, respectively:

“The discharge of sewer sludge or runoff from sludge application to surface waters is prohibited. Surface runoff control structures shall be designed and installed to prevent runoff flows from the project site”.

“All facilities used for collection, transportation, treatment, or disposal of waste shall be adequately protected against overflow, washout, inundation, structural damage or a significant reduction in efficiency resulting from a storm or flood having a recurrence interval of once in 100 years”.
4. Citizen Complaints: On March 2, 1998, Board staff received citizen complaints indicating that a February 27, 1998 storm event caused Bio Gro to violate its WDRs. The complainant indicated that the floodwater inundated the site and that runoff occurred in violation of the WDRs.
- 5.

Violations: On March 3, 1998, Board staff conducted a compliance inspection and determined that violation of WDRs had occurred. The violation of WDRs occurred because the site was not adequately protected and became inundated by floodwater and runoff occurred. A Notice of Violation letter, dated March 4, 1998, was issued to Bio Gro by Board staff.

6. Threatened Future Violation: Flooding at the site will continue to occur in violation of the WDRs until adequate flood control measures are implemented. Under some circumstances flooding can pose a threat to water quality.
7. Section 13300 of the California Water Code (CWC) states in part:

“Whenever a regional board finds that a discharge is taking place or threatening to take place that violates or will violate requirements prescribed by the regional board, ... the board may require the discharger to submit for approval of the board, with such modifications as it may deem necessary, a detailed time schedule of specific actions the discharger shall take in order to correct or prevent a violation of requirements.”
8. This enforcement action is being taken by this regulatory agency to enforce provisions of the CWC, as such, it is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.) in accordance with Section 15321, Chapter 3, Title 14, California Code of Regulations.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, pursuant to CWC Section 13300:

Bio Gro shall submit a complete and detailed plan and implementation time schedule to the Regional Board no later than **June 15, 1998**. The plan shall include, but not be limited to, identification and implementation of a compliance alternative which eliminates threatened violation of WDRs associated with floodwater runoff and inundation (for a flood having a recurrence interval of once in 100 years). The plan must be signed by a Registered Engineer in an appropriate discipline, and must demonstrate that the alternative will achieve compliance with WDRs, to the satisfaction of the Executive Officer.

Ordered by: _____ Dated: _____
HAROLD J. SINGER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER